

# On the Spur of the Moment

By Roy K. Moulton

The Simple Life.

He jumped off the train almost before it had come to a full stop and shook the clinders out of his hair and ears. He snuffed the town air joyously and shook hands warmly with the friend who had gone to the train to meet him.

"For the love of Mike, where have you been?" asked the friend. "You look like the fag end of a mispent life. You look as frazzled as a collar that has been to the laundry nineteen times."

"I have been to a rest cure," he replied. "Doc told me where to find a cute place and I fell for it like a ding-swizzled bonehead. I have rested so much in the last ten days that I'm about half dead, and believe me, Septimus, when I catch Doc alone some dark night the police are going to have another mysterious affair to clear up."

"I would hardly have known you," said the friend.

"I don't blame you. I was feeling pretty fair when Doc sent me away and I told him I thought he was making a great mistake, but he would have his own way. I got a little hall bedroom over the kitchen in one of those foxy health resorts, where all you have got to do is to eat, wash and sit and look out of the window at the sparrows. I couldn't fish because it wasn't good for me. It was too cold to go in bathing. I couldn't read on account of my eyes and I couldn't play poker because there was nobody to play with but a Methodist preacher and four old ladies. I got quite well acquainted with them sparrows. We would do nothing all day but talk about the weather and study the almanac, and at night we would sit and talk about the moon. The only excitement I had was one funeral which took place in the neighborhood, and there wouldn't have been much excitement there if the soprano hadn't swallowed her gum right at the critical moment."

"I was alone with myself so much that I had time to think over my past life and get to dreading the future. Finally when I got to talking to myself and counting the ants in the sugar bowl I made up my mind to fly back to town, and here I am."

"The simple life has got me down, but not out. I am going to get to work again and recuperate, and when I get the strength back that I have lost at the rest cure I'm going to go up and have a session with Doc that he will remember for several months. Strong, I'll see you after I go home and bury these clothes in the back yard. Get the boys together to-night."

A Gilt Edge Recommendation.

An attenuated and willowy Swedish maiden was once connected with the household in the capacity of domestic. Her work was not satisfactory and she received her notice. Before leaving she approached the head of the house and said:

"Ay tank if I had a recommendation from you I could get a good job somewhere, maybe."

This was a poser, but after thinking the matter over for a few minutes the man with a cheerful desire to oblige sat down at his desk and wrote the following:

"To Whom It May Concern: This is to certify that Miss Tillie Svenson has been engaged in my household as domestic for six months. I can truthfully say that she is the tallest hired girl we have ever had."

The sweetest little darling that the world has ever seen; Of tranquil disposition with no yearning to be mean. It's face shows great intelligence and beauty that is rare; The cutest little infant in the count, its voice shows splendid quality. It's music to the ear. And when it has the colic, it's a symphony to hear. It has got a brilliant future, there is not a doubt of it. And there's not a thing to wish for to improve the kid a bit— If it is yours.

How to Get Rich.

Organize something brand new in the way of a religious cult. Invent an automobile tire that cannot be punctured. Find a recipe for an odorless garlic salad. Start a moving picture show. Marry an heiress. Rob a bank. Work.

Bromides.

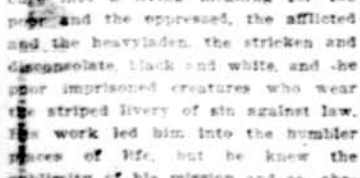
"If Jones, next door, doesn't keep his chickens out of the garden there is going to be a murder in this neighborhood before the week is over."

"I just know little Ronald is going to be a newspaper reporter when he grows up. He has such a vivid imagination and such a knack for story telling."

"If you want to get cured, go and see my doctor. He's the best in this town."

"I ain't had a bit of trouble with this car since I bought it, seven years ago. Yes, I'll sell it—at a bargain, too."

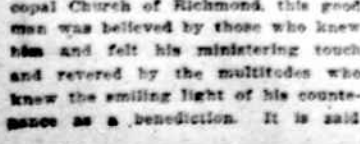
Abe Martin



A romantic girl generally marries a fellow that never shaves his neck, again after 'th minister has made 'em. Miss Tawney Apple has a new mermaid shirt.

REPORTERS FIND MR. MORGAN A HARD MAN TO INTERVIEW

(Copyright, 1912, by John T. McCutche on.)



of him that he was the most popular minister in the diocese and the popular estimate takes most into account the goodness and the genuine service of the man. Perhaps he will be missed most of all in the prisons and the reformatories where the light of hope seems barred out to the unfortunate, but where the consoling missioner who died yesterday went about pointing the imprisoned to the way of peace and salvation. Who can measure in finite terms the reclamation of souls wrought through his work? It was characteristic of his whole life that its last act should be an attempt to save the life of another, an humble and almost unknown colored man. "For whosoever will save his life shall lose it; and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it."

THE TRUE UNIVERSITY SPIRIT.

It has been truly said that the spirit of a university in a democracy should be "come, let us reason together." The problems of the democracy should be discussed and studied, and solution proposed within the quiet college walls, where the young men of to-day are assembled to receive a brief training for the civic and other responsibilities which will soon be placed upon them. The college or the university as a rule is removed from sinister commercial and industrial influences, and it embodies all that experience has shown to be wise and useful. Its atmosphere or its intangible influence is usually the expression of what the past has held to be high and noble in private life and lofty and inspiring in public service. The traditions of the older institutions of learning in Virginia are their greatest assets. Their impression upon the student means more than technical training or scholarly achievement.

This fact is of special import at the present time because of the tendencies which are at work in Virginia and in the South. We have made a splendid and magnificent recovery from the destruction and devastation of the Civil War. The spirit of enterprise and progress is everywhere. Each day adds new wonders to our material development. The remarkable advancement of one year is only an earnest of an extraordinary future growth in wealth and resources. The imagination can scarcely picture our future commercial and industrial possibilities. We are justly proud of our achievements and look toward the coming years with an assured feeling of even greater material success. At the same time, the contemplation of what our physical progress involves, and of the responsibilities which it imposes, is too little in our minds, and seldom brings the serious reflection which it should have. The plans of the present are too engrossing and the ever-onward movement is too full of effort and zest for the average participant in present-day activities to take time to pause for the analysis of existing tendencies, or to formulate rules of private and public conduct which will insure a permanent and wholesome commercial and industrial edifice.

It is here that we need the assistance of our higher seats of learning. They cannot and must not neglect the significant present. Their duties and responsibilities are clearly evident and are more pressing and exacting than those of any other class of institutions. We have gained much from our technical and agricultural schools. Their work has been and will continue to be of the greatest importance. We must have an equal service of a different, but even of a more needed and vital character, from our colleges and universities. Young men must be trained to handle properly the complex problem of business and corporate life which our material development has brought into existence. There must also be training for public life, which will insure the proper adaptation of the new industrial and commercial forces to the old institutions of Virginia and the South. The traditions and ideals of the old South, which time has approved as the basis for Southern manhood, must be maintained and transmitted in all their original loveliness to future generations.

Fifteen years ago a school of economics and politics was established at Washington and Lee University. Three years later, when its founder, the lamented William L. Wilson, died, this new department, through the generosity of his friends, was placed on a permanent endowment. After the accession of President Alderman to the headship of the university, a school of politics and economics was also founded at that institution. The work thus inaugurated at Lexington and Charlottesville has been carried forward with increasing success and with great and lasting benefit to Virginia and the Southern States. Both the University and Washington and Lee, as well as other institutions in Virginia, should lay special stress upon the development of these and similar departments. They are performing a public service and meeting a vital need. They also constitute a ground of hope for all that is best in the future. Business men should give this work co-operation and substantial assistance. Our legislators and our citizens should see to it that ample means are available for the department at Charlottesville. Both of these schools of politics and economics are making us more efficient in business and industry and, what is more important, they are preparing our young men for intelligent and unselfish citizenship and public service.

A NOTABLE ADDRESS.

A notable address bearing on "Christian Unity" and the best methods of attaining it was made a few days ago

by the Bishop of Carlisle, England, before a diocesan conference. The speaker devoted himself chiefly to "church defense," and earnestly championed establishment-union of church and state. But, he said, all methods of church defense were not good; there were folly, cancer and ignorance on both sides. What he characterized as the mischievous antagonism of church and state fostered for so many centuries was, he charged, responsible for many of the evils of the day.

As he read the sign of the times, he continued, he was more and more convinced that "what man needed was not less God in politics and parliament, but more; not a further severance of church and state, but a closer and more intimate union. But they would have to enlarge and purify their conceptions of both church and state; they would have to bring the state nearer to God and the church nearer to man." It involved no commitment to the policy of constitution, formal union of church and state, which is fundamentally repugnant to our institutions, to indorse the spirit and essence of that doctrine.

However, the most notable and significant utterance of the bishop, as having to do with "Christian unity" as an auxiliary of "church defense," were to follow. It was clear to him, he declared, that the Church of England could not long continue to be considered a "national church" unless closer bonds of union were established between the Episcopal and the non-Episcopal Christian communions of the land. He "defended" establishment in Wales because Wales was not a separate nation with a separate national legislature, but a part of the English nation, and the Episcopal Church was a very ancient and more beloved must make no distinction between Conformists and nonconformists. His ministrations of sympathy and sacrament will be at the service of all.

The London Spectator, in presenting an abstract of the bishop's views, "refrains" from "comment," except that it finds itself "wholly in agreement with this admirable address, in which comprehension is shown to be the true basis of church defense." Also, it is the true basis of Christian unity, and applies to Christianity the world over.

THE VACANT KITCHEN.

A cook hath inalienable indefeasible and indubitable right, exercised from time whereof the memory of man runneth to the contrary, to quit the job whenever she feels like it.

This week Anna Collins, member of that gallant race that always has and always will go unanimously Democratic, gave notice that she could no longer get meals for the Woodrow Wilson family. She laid down the frying pan and the coffee pot, because she married a farmer, whom she met at the backdoor of the Little White House at Seagirt, when he was delivering snaps and Murphys and cabbage and onions and cymplings and rice for the Wilson table.

The Democratic candidate for President made the best of the situation and lent his motor car to the bride and groom for use between the church and the railroad station.

Also: there is no immunity from quitting cooks! Princes and Presidents are not exempt from this universal culinary calamity. Yet there are only a few months left until a White House Sally from Old Virginia will take charge of the White House kitchen and cook the Wilsons the finest batterbread and the crispest bacon and the flakiest waffles and the sweetest potatoe pie that ever President tasted.

What shall it profit a man if he married? Here's what an enraptured reporter in the Appleton, Wis., Post says by way of answer:

The Post takes pleasure in announcing the marriage of Mr. Ballard Clark, formerly of Appleton, to Miss Alice Cummins, of Buffalo, N. Y. The bride is a young lady of varied accomplishments, possessed of those refining graces that will make the home a retreat from the perplexing swirl of commercial strife. In the economy of time a daily conflict in the merits of traffic is the record of every man of laudable ambition. Without this progress would become an obsolete factor in the industrial realm. Relaxations from the mental and physical forces exercised in these encounters are essential to the appreciation of those high ideals that add a warmth and glow to one's earthly pilgrimage. That respite can only be realized in the home where the queen of love is enthroned amid a coalition of treasures, be they ever so simple, that appeal in their esthetic desires to the human heart.

O syrup:

The bungalow is a very popular dwelling these days, and the always informing Farmville correspondent of the Appomattox Times-Virginian makes some rather original observations about it.

"The bungalow has gotten to be fashionable with us, and some attractive specimens of the style are being erected. One has already been finished and is the coziest home in town. In these days when house servants are few and far between and as uncertain as the changing wind, the less of house surface to sweep the better. The only objection I have heard urged against the bungalow has been made by timid folks who are afraid to sleep on the first floor."

The bungalow is really a sort of lazy folks' home. Imported, it is believed, by a man, who, after spending a full evening with the boys, found it difficult to negotiate the stairs to the second floor.

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SENATE INVESTIGATION

WELL? WHAT DO YOU WANT TO KNOW?

ER, ANEM. WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THE 1904-ER-THE SENATE'S COUNTRY TAPESTRY?

Will the Senate committee investigating campaign contributions find him equally agreeable?

VOICE OF THE PEOPLE

The Municipal Reform Amendment.

To the Editor of The Times-Dispatch.

Sir—Being appointed by a municipal convention held in Richmond as Chairman of a committee for the purpose of feeling that the present Commission Government Amendment to the Constitution, which has twice passed the Legislature, shall be carried at the next election, I mail you herewith an editorial from the Virginian-Pilot of this city, in favor of said amendment, and shall be obliged if you can find space to print this in the columns of your paper.

As to the editor's views of boards, I have served in the Councils of Norfolk prior to and subsequent to the existence of our Board of Control, and am very positive that the writer is wrong in his unfavorable estimate of its value, although I agree with him that commission government would be preferable and that our board has not achieved its highest possibilities.

One instance of the value of our Board of Control is that it has secured a judgment of \$30,000 in the matter of requiring the Traction Company to furnish both work and material in the paving of the tracks. Then, too, I can see the difference in the speed in which business is dispatched through the means of a board, even with limited powers, and also in the more orderly manner in which business is attended to, and then the board is in session every day, and the old council committee ran in a rather independent and haphazard manner. Then, too, matters are handled with more economy.

My opinion, from years of service as a councilman, is that the advantages which have accrued from a board with limited authority will be more than increased by commission government.

I do not venture to state that there are any such individuals, but I have never yet met a critic opposed to the existence of the board who was thoroughly familiar with its workings and who was able to compare the past with the present.

It would be, indeed, ungrateful for me to appear in public print as one battling the views set forth in this very favorable editorial, in order that I may be placed in no false position, and feel constrained to state my private opinion, which is not for publication at present.

At a meeting of the League of Virginia Municipalities, held at Alexandria last week, a motion in opposition to the present amendment was made and down with but one dissenting vote a motion was passed with a similar vote, providing for the formation of a committee of ten, for the purpose of feeling that the amendment in question should be carried at the polls at our next election.

WILLIAM H. SARGEANT, JR.

Municipal Reform.

As is well known to our readers the Virginia-Pilot takes small stock in those make-shifts that government by commission has made, and which some Virginia cities have resorted to pending the time when they will be free to adopt the real thing. The system now in operation in this state can not be radically altered unless or until the Constitutional provisions regulating municipalities shall be repealed and replaced by others less restrictive. In the meantime we believe that such experiments as Norfolk has tried and Richmond is about to try, but add an expensive and inefficient cost to machinery already too cumbersome and complicated and serve rather to still further divide than to concentrate power and responsibility. Neither the Norfolk Board of Control nor the Richmond Board of Administration can be clothed with or exercise any original or final authority, while the Mayor and Councils are endowed with full executive and legislative functions by the fundamental law of Virginia; for their respective prerogatives and functions can not be taken away or enucleated by any act of assembly or local ordinance, and any attempt on the part of such boards to assert initiative or conclusive policies must be impotent in the fact that they are not the highest source. If the make-shift amendment be composed of elements intent on inaugurating new methods for conducting the municipal business, it will inevitably encounter opposition from the Mayor or Councils, or both; and if the mem-

berish be satisfied to drift along and reap encomiums without disturbing the status quo, then the result is nothing but to increase the burdens of the taxpayers and to bestow on the politicians another plum of patronage.

It is in order therefore to remind the public that, beside helping to choose a President of the United States to succeed Mr. Taft, the opportunity will devolve on the Virginia electorate at the forthcoming November election to vote on the proposed constitutional amendment which passed the General Assemblies of 1910 and 1912, allowing the Legislature to prescribe forms of commission government for cities, to become effective when approved by the people.

Here will be the chance for the cities of the State to secure genuine emancipation from the clumsy, wasteful and ineffectual form of government to which they are at present chained. Under the terms of the amendment as it will be presented to the suffragans, the General Assembly may depart from the form of organization and government of cities and towns, as now prescribed by the constitution, and may provide, from time to time, for the various cities and towns of the State such forms of municipal government as it may deem best, subject to the condition that no form so adopted by the General Assembly shall become operative except as to such cities or towns as may thereafter adopt the same by a majority vote of its qualified electors at an election to be held as may be prescribed therefor by law.

We regard the popular ratification of this proposed change in the Constitution as second in importance to no issue on which the Virginia people will be called on to pass at the November election—Virginian-Pilot.

Equity and Penalties.

To the Editor of The Times-Dispatch:

Sir—The Governor of Virginia may not have gotten as much money as she has had by the system of taxes imposed on the South for pensions, and when a country has been confiscated, it is not fair to tax the people as much. I do not wish to be understood as opposing pensioning gallantry; but to tax one section of a country for the benefit of another is a poor way to encourage patriotism, which every man should carry in his bosom.

ALL NAMED NAMES.

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WILSON OF VIRGINIA.

Virginia, the bride of thy sons and thy daughters, wherever their wandering footsteps have strayed, From the farthest dawn to the land of the sunset Thy child never asked in vain for thine aid.

Long the nation hath called for one who is fearless In crushing the wrong and in doing the right; Who knowing no ruler but God, in the power Born of that freedom serves all in God's sight: Who restlessly moves onward, what'er opposes Till wrong is dethroned and the victor's wreath is won.

Virginia, thy hope—the hope of the righteous—Yes, the whole nation's hope—Behold HIM, thy savior.

Thy place is beside him to cheer and encourage, Gain thou with the blood of the heroes who died, Virginia, Virginia, awaken and aid him: Upstart, Virginia, be true to thy child.

PAUL.

FAVORABLE.

QUERIES & ANSWERS

Jim Crow and Physics.

Was the "Jim Crow Law" named from its author?

Please solve this problem in physics: A capillary glass tube weighs .5 grams. A thread of mercury 10 cm. high is drawn into the tube, which then weighs .6 grams. Find the diameter of the capillary tube.

R. F. T.

It gets the name from a foolish and indecent nickname for the negro, and this in turn comes, probably from an old-time song with much allusion to a "little nigger here, and jump, Jim Crow." It may be that the phrase "a Jim Crow jump" comes from some fancied peculiarity of the corvine gait, and is kin in its origin to the turkey trot and the bear dance.

Our problem appears to be the production of a rather rough hand. Many makers of our present day school texts avail themselves of the philosophical dictum that a thing must be objective or subjective, and, as they have been unable to learn, begin to teach. What may be the growth of the Baconian idealism and the success of the day's tendency towards the practical learning for learning's sake, for its sweetness and its grace, like Sir John's, and is kin in its origin to the turkey trot and the bear dance.

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National State and City Bank

1111 East Main, Solicits Your Account, Capital, \$1,000,000. Deposits, \$1,000,000.

W. F. T.

Can I procure a dictionary of Irish in the country?

We have nothing but Coney's, published in Dublin in 1848. This may be got through your bookseller. It is probably in the State Library, and is considered sufficient for ordinary purposes.

Unknown Witness.

I am not inclined to go into court as a witness in a case in which I have been summoned. Can I be forced to attend and testify?

Yes, unless you run away.

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